

In *Perameles Cockerelli* there is a well-defined narrow line along the upper lip from opposite the canine tooth, bordering the blackish brown of the upper part of the face and head, which extends a little below the eye, and from thence in an upward curved line to the ears; the sides of the face below are ashy grey, pencilled below the ears with blackish and a few little rusty red; there is also a small patch of rusty red at the base of the ear below; the hind feet are blackish brown; and the snout rather bare in front from opposite the canine tooth.

Notes of a Collection of Birds from the Norman River, Gulf of Carpentaria, with descriptions of some new species. By LE COMTE DE CASTELNAU, Consul Général de France, Melbourne; and E. PIERSON RAMSAY, F.L.S., Curator of the Australian Museum, Sydney.

Le Comte de Castelnau having lately secured for his museum a collection of Birds from the Gulf of Carpentaria, we thought, perhaps, some remarks upon the avi-fauna of this far-off and little known region would prove acceptable to the Society. The following, then, is a list of the species obtained, with descriptions of such as we deem to be *new* or undescribed:—

The Nomenclature, except where otherwise stated, is that used in Mr. Gould's Handbook to his Birds of Australia.

1. HALIAETUS LEUCOGASTER, *Vigors*.
2. HIERACIDEA ORIENTALIS, *Schleg.*, *Sharpe*, *Brit. Mus. Cat.*, *Acc.*, vol 1., p. 422, 1874.
3. PANDION LEUCOCEPHALUS, *Gould*.
4. HIERACOGLAUX CONNIVENS.
5. STRIX DELICATULUS, *Gould*.
6. HYLOCHELIDON NIGRICANS.
7. MEROPS ORNATUS.
8. DACELO LEACHII, *Vig. & Horsf.*

9. HALCYON SANCTUS.
10. HALCYON PYRRHOPYGIA, *Gould.*
11. HALCYON PULCHRA, *Gould.*
12. ARTAMUS ALBIVENTRIS, *Gould.*
13. ARTAMUS LEUCOPYGIALIS, *Gould.*
14. PARDALOTUS RUBRICATUS, *Gould.*
15. SMICRORNIS FLAVESCENS, *Gould.*
16. PACIYCEPHALA MELANURA.
17. „ RUFIVENTRIS.

Several specimens, males and females. These agree with Mr. Gould's *P. falcata* in size and general appearance, but on close examination the pectoral band is found to reach and join the carcoverts.

18. MELANODRYAS PICATA, *Gould.*
19. EOPSALTRIA LEUCURA, *Gould.*
20. COLLURICINCLA BRUNNEA, *Gould.*
21. VANGA NIGROGULARIS, *Gould.*
22. GRAUCALUS HYPOLEUCUS, *Gould.*
23. „ MELANOPS.
24. CAMPEPHAGA JARDINII, *Rupp.*
25. „ HUMERALIS, *Gould.*
26. RHIPIDURA DRYAS, *Gould.* Differs from *R. rufifrons.*, in having a greater extent of white on tail feathers.
27. SIEZURA NANA, *Gould.*
28. MICRÆCA FASCINANS.

Several specimens similar, but slightly smaller than those from N. S. Wales.

29. MYIAGRA LATIROSTRIS, *Gould.*
30. MALURUS AMABILIS, *Gould.*

Having lately received specimens of this and *M. hypoleucus*, Gould, in change of plumage, we can testify that the latter is only the female of the former (*M. amabilis.*)

31. MALURUS CRUENTATUS, *Gould.*
32. SPIENÆCUS GALACTOTES.
33. CISTICOLA ISURA, *Gould.*
34. EPTIIANURA CROCEA, *sp. nov.*

Adult male.—Lores, sides of the head, chin, throat, and the whole of the under surface of the body, under and upper tail coverts, bright yellow; across the chest a (*lunate?*)* spot of black; crown of the head, sides and back of the neck, and the sides of the chest, olive yellow; back brown, washed with olive yellow; tail blackish brown, the base white, and all (?) the feathers more or less tipped with white; margins of the outer webs, towards the base, yellow; wings brown, darker on the secondaries and upper coverts, primaries narrowly edged with yellow on the outer webs, the coverts and secondaries rather broadly margined with whitish and edged with yellow on the outer webs, secondaries margined with white at the tips; under wing coverts whitish, washed with bright yellow like the body; under surface of the quills light brown, the inner webs towards the base fading into silvery white; legs and bill blackish brown.

Total length, 4.3 in.; wing, 2.4 in.; tail, 1.65 in.; tarsus, 0.7 in.; bill, from forehead 0.5, from nostril 0.3, from gape 0.6.

Adult female. All the upper surface dark brown; feathers on head mesially shaded with blackish brown; upper and under tail-coverts yellow, not so bright as in the male; a slight tinge of yellow on the abdomen, flanks, and under wing-coverts; the remainder of the under surface dull white, tinged with brown on the sides and chest; no pectoral spot; wings above blackish, brown on the secondaries, dark brown on primaries, which are tinged with yellow along the margin of the outer webs; wing-coverts tipped with dull white tinged with yellow, secondaries tipped and margined with white; tail blackish brown, the tips and the base white, margins of the outer webs edged with yellow; legs dark brown; bill brown, whitish at base of lower mandible.

Total length, 4.1; wings, 2.3; tail, 1.6; bill, 0.5; tarsus, 0.7.

Hab. Norman River, Gulf of Carpentaria. From Mr. Gulliver's collection.

* Many of the feathers being lost from the chest, the exact shape of the pectoral mark cannot be ascertained in this specimen.

It is very interesting to find another well-marked species of this strictly Australian genus, the members of which are among our most beautifully marked birds. The present species may be easily distinguished from its near ally *Epthianura aurifrons*, of Gould, by the black mark on the chest.

35. ANTHUS AUSTRALIS, *Vig. and Horsf.*

Slightly smaller than New South Wales specimens, especially in the wings. Length, 3 in.; tail, 2·35.

36. PTENÆDUS RUFESCENS.

37. MYRAFA HORSFIELDII, *Gould.*

38. POEPHILA PERSONATA, *Gould.*

39. POEPHILA ATROPYGIALIS,* *sp. nov.*

This species may be distinguished from *Poephila cincta* (Gould), which it closely resembles, by the rump and upper tail coverts being black, and the under surface being of a darker hue; the ashy white of the head is not so clear, and less in extent. The note of the bird is quite distinct from that of *P. cincta*.

40. ESTRILDA (*Stictoutera*) BICHENOVII, *Gould.*

41. ESTRILDA (*Bathilda*) RUFICAUDA, *Gould.*

42. CHLAMYDODERA NUCHALIS.

43. SPHECOTHERES FLAVIVENTRIS, *Gould.*

44. POMATOSTOMUS TEMPORALIS.

Slightly smaller, particularly in the wings, than those from New South Wales.

45. POMATOSTOMUS SUPERCILIOSUS.

46. CLIMACTERIS MELANOTUS, *Gould.*

47. SITTELLA STRIATA, *Gould.*

* Diggles, *Queenslander* newspaper, 1876. We have here adopted the name proposed by Mr. Diggles, of Queensland, for this new species, but more out of compliment to that gentleman than in accordance with the strict rules of nomenclature, as it will be evident to all ornithologists that the merely proposing a name and pointing out a difference in a newspaper can scarcely be looked upon as *describing the species*. We trust our friend will take this hint in the kindly spirit it is meant; and when he again favours us with the announcement of any new species, we hope they will be *fully described*.

48. *STIGMATOPS SUBOCULARIS*, *Gould*.

49. *ENTOMOPHILA RUFIGULARIS*, *Gould*.

In addition to the adults, we find one specimen of an *Entomophila*—probably the young of this species—which has the whole of the under surface of a dull white. This may eventually prove to be the young of *E. albugularis*; but as the collection contained none of this latter species, as far as we know, it is more probable that it is the young of the former—*E. ruficularis*.

50. *MELITHREPTUS ALBOGULARIS*, *Gould*.

51. *PHILEMON CITREOGULARIS*, *Gould*.

52. *ZOSTEROPS* (TEPHRAS?) *GULLIVERI*, *sp. nov.*

The general colour above is of a light ashy brown, darker on the quills of the wings and tail, all the feathers washed with pale olive yellow, which shows more conspicuously on the outer webs of the wing and tail feathers; the forehead and throat of a little brighter yellow; lores blackish, the whole of the under surface and the under wing and tail coverts very pale citron, with a slight wash of buff on the flanks; legs light lead-grey; bill dark, lead-grey above, lower mandible paler.

Total length, 4·2; wings, 2·25; tail, 1·8; tarsus, 0·7; bill from forehead 0·55; from nostril 0·3; from gape 0·6.

This species seems to belong more to the sub-genus *Tephras* than to *Zosterops* proper, in its more rounded wings and tail, and want of the eye-ring; the bill, however, is like that of a true *Zosterops*.

Hab. Norman River, Gulf of Carpentaria. From Mr. Gulliver's collection.

53. *SCYTHROPS* *NOVÆ-HOLLANDIÆ*.

54. *CUCULUS* (*Cacomantis*) *PALLIDUS*.

55. *CHALCITES* *MINUTILLUS*, *Gould*.

56. „ *BASALIS*.

57. *CENTROPUS* *MELANURUS*, *Gould*.

58. *CALYPTORYNCHUS* *MACRORYNCHUS*, *Gould*.

59. *CACATUA* *GALERETA*.

60. *CACATUA* *SANGUINEA*, *Gould*.

? *Cacatua* *Gymnops*, *Sclater* P. Z. S. 1871, p. 492, fig. 4.

This species was obtained in considerable numbers on the Norman River by Mr. Kendal Broadbent in 1875. All the specimens show the same plumage and the peculiarity of having the orbits bare, but to a greater extent below than above the eye, and vary a little in size. This is undoubtedly the true *C. sanguinea* of Gould. Its range extends from Port Essington, where Mr. Gould's specimens were obtained, round the Gulf of Carpentaria country, as far south as the Palmer River.

61. PTISTES COCCINEOPTERUS, *Gould*.

62. GEOPELIA (*Erythrauchæna*) HUMERALIS, *Gould*.

63. GEOPELIA PLACIDA, *Gould*.

64. GEOPELIA (*Stictopelia*) CUNEATA.

65. SYNOICUS CERVINUS, *Gould*.

66. ÆDICNEMUS GRALLARIUS, *Lath*.

The northern variety of this species is remarkable for the length of the tarsi, which might be considered by some ornithologists sufficient to constitute a distinct species, as this peculiarity is constant in all the specimens obtained at the Gulf. The following are the admeasurements showing this characteristic :—

Bill, 2·2 in.; wing, 11·6 in.; tail, 8 in.; tarsus, 5·6 in.; mid. toe, 1·9 in.

67. LOBIVANELLUS MILES, *Bodd.*; *Gould, Bds. Aust. VI. pl. 10*.

68. HIMANTOPUS LEUCOCEPHALUS, *Gould*.

69. ÆGIALITIS RUFICAPILLUS.

70. TOTANUS BREVIPES, *Cuv*.

Gambetta pulverulentus; *Gould, Hand-bk. Bds. Aust. II., p. 268, sp. 531*.

71. TRINGA TENUIROSTRIS, *Horsf.*; *Gould, Hand-bk. Bds. Aust. II., p. 260, sp. 526*.

72. TRINGA (*Limnocinclus*) ACCUMINATA, *Horsf*.

73. TOTANUS GLOTTIS, *L*.

Glottis Glottoides, Vig.; *Gould, Hand-bk. Bds. Aust. II., p. 265, sp. 529*.

74.—HÆMATOPUS, *nov. sp.?*

? *Hæmatopus niger. Cuv.* On examining the *Hæmatopi* obtained in North Australia, we find one which differs from all

other hitherto recorded Australian species, in having a considerable bare space round the eye; this space is wider in front and above, than behind or below the eye, and, like the bill, is of a reddish carmine colour. The plumage is of a deep sooty black, with little or no gloss, except perhaps on the head and neck; the wing and tail feathers are of a blackish brown; legs deep carmine red.

Total length from forehead to tip of tail, 15 in.; bill from forehead 3·2 in.; from *posterior* margin of nostril 2·5; from gape 2·85; height, about middle of 0·5; width, 0·3; width of upper mandible at the posterior margin of nostril, 0·5; wing, 10 in.; tail, 4·9; tarsus, 2·1; mid. toe, 1·9.

This species is smaller on the whole, and the neck shorter than either of the Australian species; it comes nearest to *H. fuliginosus* of Gould, but may be at once distinguished therefrom, by the large bare space round the eye and the short bill. It is, moreover, smaller in all its measurements.* Should this species prove to be undescribed we propose for it the specific name of *ophthalmicus*. †

Hab. Bountiful Island. The specimen here described is from Mr. Gulliver's collection.

75.—NUMENIUS CYANOPUS, *Vieill.*

The Norman River specimens differ from those of the same species from New South Wales in having a very decided wash of rufous over the head, chest, and all the upper surface.

76. NUMENIUS MINOR, *Müll.*

77. NUMENIUS UROPYGIALIS, *Gould.*

78. IBIS FALCINELLUS, *L.*

79. THRESKIORNIS STRICTIPENNIS, *Gould.*

80. GERONITICUS SPINICOLLIS, *James.*

81. PLATALEA MELANORHYNCHIA, *Reich.*

82. GRUS AUSTRALASIANUS, *Gould.*

* *H. fuliginosus* has bill, 3·8 in.; tail, 5 in.; wing, 11·6; tarsus, 2·4; mid-toe, 2·25.

† We regret that, from want of a series of the sooty oyster-catchers from other countries to compare with, we are at present unable to determine this question.

83. XENORHYNCHUS AUSTRALIS, *Lath.*
 84. NYCTICORAX CALEDONICUS, *Gm.*
 85. ARDEA PACIFICA, *Lath.*
 86. HERODIAS ASHA.
 87. HERODIAS GARZETTA.
 88. HERODIAS PICATA, *Gould.*
 89. PORPHYRIO MELANOTUS, *Temm.*
 90. TRIBONYX VENTRALIS, *Gould.*
 91. FULICA AUSTRALIS, *Gould.*
 92. NETTAPUS PULCHELLUS, *Gould.*
 93. DENDROCYGNA VAGANS.
 94. ,, EYTONI, *Gould.*
 95. TADORNA RAJAH.
 96. NYROCA AUSTRALIS, *Gould.*
 97. MALACORHYNCHUS MEMBRANACEUS.
 98. THALASSEUS BENGALENSIS.
 99. SYLOCHELIDON CASPIA.
 100. HYDROCHELIDON LEUCOPAREIA, *Natt.*
 101. STERNULA PLACENS.
 102. PODICEPS GULARIS, *Gould.*
 103. PLOTUS NOVÆ-HOLLANDIÆ, *Gould.*
 104. SULA FIBER, *Linn.*
 105. PELECANUS CONSPICILLATUS, *Temm.*
 106. TACHYPETES AQUILA.
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Notes on a Collection of Birds from Port Moresby ; with descriptions of some *new species*. By E. P. RAMSAY, F.L.S.

Mr. A. Goldie, the botanical collector from the firm of Mr. B. S. Williams, the well-known plant merchant, of London, having safely returned from a perilous sojourn of nearly twelve months at Port Moresby, New Guinea, has brought with him a small collection of birds, which he obtained in that district ; and